

# REVISITING CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO TODAY'S EVANGELICALS

## Part II: Christ's All-Sufficiency For Evangelicals Presented

### A. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Discipling The Godly

(Revelation 3:14b(a))

#### I. Introduction

- A. In prophetically addressing us believers in our *current Evangelical* era of Church History, our Lord revealed that a great lack exists in effectively **discipling** even *godly* believers, and He also teaches us how to correct it.
- B. Revelation 3:14b(a) shows us Christ's all-sufficiency for meeting this need of **today** as follows:

#### II. Christ's All-Sufficiency For Discipling The Godly, Revelation 3:14b(a).

- A. In **preparing to comment** on today's Evangelical era, Jesus laid out a threefold description of *Himself* in Revelation 3:14b: He is "The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the head of the creation of God."
- B. The **first** description, "The Amen," shows Christ's all-sufficiency in **discipling today's godly believers** just **OPPOSITE** the *ineffective* efforts by **both Calvinist and Charismatic-Arminian** teachers respectively:
  - 1. The phrase "the Amen" exists elsewhere in **all** of Scripture **only** at 2 Cor. 1:20 and 1 Cor. 14:16 (Moulton & Geden, A Conc. to the Grk. Test., 1974, p. 51-52; B. D. B., A Heb. and Eng. Lex. of the O. T., p. 53)
  - 2. These passages in their contexts explain what is needed for the **godly** to respond with "the Amen" to a message **opposite** what *Calvinists and Charismatic-Arminians* respectively, errantly do (as follows):
    - a. 2 Cor. 1:18-20 explains what is needed **opposite** what today's **Calvinist** teachers do: (i) Paul taught that for "the Amen" to occur from godly hearers, a teacher must assert that "the promises of God" to Israel's forefathers in the Abrahamic Covenant (Romans 15:8) "find their certain fulfillment, their Yes, in Christ." (Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, 1978, fn. to 2 Cor. 1:20). (ii) Reformed Theology teachers claim these promises were **conditional** for **Israel**, that when **Israel failed** to keep them, God gave the promises to the **Church**. (Charles C. Ryrie, A Survey of Bible Doctrine, 1972, p. 161-164) (iii) However, 2 Cor. 1:20 claims that these promises are affirmed in **Christ, NOT the Church**, so **Christ unconditionally fulfills** the **Abrahamic Covenant**, and that to **Israel**, which stance reflects the premillennial and dispensational view of Scripture! (Ibid.) [More evidence that the Abrahamic Covenant was unconditional for only God to fulfill for Israel exists in Genesis 15:9-21: there only God – not both God and Abraham – passed between the animal parts to form the covenant (Ibid., Ryrie Study Bible, fn. to Gen. 15:17).] (iv) Reformed Theology teachers handle Scripture figuratively to make the Church replace Israel in God's plan where dispensationalists consistently interpret Scripture literally, what keeps Israel as the heir of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Church a beneficiary through its union with Christ (J. F. Walvoord, The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation, 1976, p. 12-15). Thus, Christ in Rev. 3:14b(a) supports the consistently literal interpretation of Scripture.
    - b. 1 Cor. 14:16 in its context explains what is needed **opposite** what today's **Charismatic-Arminian** teachers do: (i) Paul taught that for "the Amen" to occur, teachers must speak in a **known human language** that hearers might **logically** understand the message in their "**minds**" (the Greek noun *noi*, U. B. S. Grk. N. T., 1966, p. 609; T. D. N. T., v. IV, p. 959)! (ii) However, Charismatic-Arminian teachers exalt efforts to proclaim God's message in "tongues" that are allegedly angelic tongues, not known human languages, or to speak prophetic utterances that are not confirmed by written Scripture or to state illogical beliefs or ambiguous ["yes" and "no"] statements that inhibit "the Amen" from godly believers (A. Mohler, Jr., "Evangelical: What's In A Name," p. 31-39 in John Armstrong, ed., The Coming Evang. Crisis, 1996)
- C. Thus, **Christ causes** the **godly** to **say** "the Amen" [cf. Philippians 2:12-13] when a teacher does the **opposite** of what the Arminian and Calvinist teachers do as implied above and summarized in our conclusion below!

**Lesson:** (1) *Christ revealed that many Evangelicals today fail to gain "the Amen" from godly hearers (as follows):*

*(a) Calvinists do not assert that Christ fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant, leading to their rejection of premillennialism and dispensationalism and a figurative mishandling of Scripture! (b) Arminians promote utterances in alleged "tongues," illogical statements or hold to pluralistic views or distrust the Bible's divine inspiration or do not expound it. (2) To solve these problems, Christ causes godly hearers to say "the Amen" to a teacher's ministry (a) if the teacher consistently interprets Scripture literally to claim that Christ fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant, thus reflecting the premillennial and dispensational view of Scripture, and if (b) the teacher logically expounds Scripture as God's inspired Word, and he communicates its truth in a known human language.*

**Application:** *May we heed Christ's call to disciple the godly aright that they might say "the Amen" to God's glory!*